



NOT A GAS LINE but early birds seeking tickets to shows the coming season at the South Shore Music Circus are these wise purchasers on hand as the boxoffice opened



the past Saturday morning. They and others like them will soon change the look of the empty seats above. (Greg Derr photo)

Cohasset Penpals Exchange News

"I like it in Cohasset. Do you like it in Cohasset?"

That conversation did not take place in Cohasset, Mass. Actually, it's part of an exchange between two 8-year-old correspondents — one from Cohasset, Mass., the other from Cohasset, Minnesota.

Mrs. Marie Price, a second grade teacher at the Joseph Osgood School, was attracted by a story that read, "Zero degrees is a heat wave in Cohasset (Minn.)." Intrigued by the characteristics of another town with the same name, Mrs. Price shared it with her second grade class. The kids were interested, too, in this 'other' Cohasset, and it was decided they'd write

to Minnesota. The real excitement began when they received answers to their letters from the second graders at Cohasset Elementary!

The Minnesota boys and girls thought it was great to hear from second graders in a second Cohasset. Their teacher, Miss Dahlberg, wrote back about their town.

"Cohasset, Minn. is a small community of about 470 people. Many live in rural areas. People farm, work for M.P. & L., Blandin Paper Co., log wood or land business jobs in Grand Rapids (nearby city of 8,000)." Thinking their own Cohasset small, Mrs. Price's class tried to imagine another

Cohasset, slightly larger in population than theirs.

The children's letters — from both Cohasset — are treasures. They are spontaneous, proud, curious, wise — full of all that's important to eight year olds. They talk about their favorite things — people, pets and activities.

The Minnesota Cohasset has lots of farms, lakes and long, snowy winters. "I live on a lake and there are lots of fish . . . I live on a farm and we have baby rabbits and many other animals . . . I have some cows, a horse and other animals."

Two writers recall the same incident, "I live on a lake. Sue Riley got stuck in our lake . . . My lake is full of mud and once Sue Riley got stuck in our lake."

Some ride mini-bikes, go bob-sledding, deliver papers. Most have pets. They write of losing loved ones with disarming frankness. "I feel sorry for my Grandma because she died in her sleep . . . We used to have seven cats but three ran away and one died so now we only have three." They acclaim their teacher, "My teacher is nice to kids . . . I love my teacher!"

Interests and concerns among the Massachusetts kids are similar, "Are you learning the

time tables? We are . . . Is your room clean or messy? My room is messy . . . I like to swim in the Summer . . . How many friends do you have?" Meet my teacher, "My teacher's name is Mrs. Price. Her first name is Marie. She is very nice to the class."

One boy writes about Minot's Light, "I have a boat. I have gone to an island in the harbor. I have gone to the lighthouse. It blinks at night. The light says, I love you." And on many an 8-year-old's mind, "In Boston there's a game called baseball. Our team is called the Red Sox."

Mrs. Price's class has already had experience in letter writing. They have been corresponding with students in England. That exchange of ideas and customs began through Mrs. Price's friendship with a former student teacher, Terry England, who works there now. In addition to being a good, creative writing lesson for the kids, they have gained new friends and some familiarity with English life and terminology. They de-

light in using new words like plimsoles (sneakers), buggie (bird), potato crisps (potato chips), and rubber (eraser).

Many letters between these new Cohasset friends mentioned visiting each other and ended this way, "I enjoyed your letter. I would like to be your pen pal." Pen pals usually live so far away from one another that it's unlikely they'll ever meet. That fact is not a concern to these kids who think and write in the realm of the possible. To get "up" to Minnesota or "down" to Massachusetts for Cohasset pen pals is a real, potential journey.

By Karen Bartow

Stockbridge

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for dismissal and that such dismissal should be only for compelling reasons.

"A duly processed recommendation for reappointment based upon a wholly and highly satisfactory record, as in the present case, cannot be reversed by that which could be seen as innuendo carried outside of the legitimate process of evaluation," the statement continued.

"To do so would engender distrust in the evaluation process on the part of all of our teachers; this in turn would undermine our community quest for education excellence."

The statement concluded by enumerating Stockbridge's capabilities — his insistence on proper classroom discipline, traditional manners, and respect for the rights of others — as well as a strong recommendation for reappointment.

Committee member Walsh questioned Superintendent's John Maloney's basis for his recommendation to rehire Stockbridge. Maloney responded that the Committee had his previous evaluation in writing, and that he had followed the ex-

act standard operating procedure in making the recommendation.

England noted, as a general purpose to the statement, that the School Committee is bound to operate under different laws when reappointing tenured and untenured teachers. The just cause process to which the statement referred, England said, applied to the reappointment of tenured teachers. The School Committee does have the right not to vote for an untenured teacher without stating a reason, he said.

The 30 residents, teachers and members of the administration loudly applauded the reappointment of Stockbridge.

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